AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing network bandwidth wastage incident to sending an electronic document to a nonexistent member of a distribution list having multiple destination addresses for respective members, comprising:

receiving a document by a document distribution server;

expanding the distribution list into its constituent recipients;

recording in a database a document identifier and the distribution list;

distributing the document to ~~said~~the members of the distribution list;

receiving, in response to distributing to a first member of the distribution list, an error message ~~comprising~~ including the document identifier;

looking up the document identifier in the database ~~so as~~ to identify the distribution list; and

automatically deleting the destination address for the first member from the distribution list so that a subsequent sending to the distribution list avoids corresponding subsequent error messages.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the wastage comprises bandwidth required for:

~~said~~the distributing the document to the nonexistent member;

~~said~~the error message received in response to ~~said~~the distributing;

a reply by a second member of the distribution list, in response to ~~said~~the distributing, which is distributed to the nonexistent member; and

an error message responsive to ~~said~~the reply.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein members of the distribution list receive distributions addressed such that replies to ~~said~~the distributions are directed to ~~said~~the members of the distribution list.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

disposing a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) application program within a first computing device;

composing by the user of the document with ~~said~~the application program; and

disposing the document distribution server in a second computing device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~the application program includes an object-oriented programming language.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~the application program comprises a Microsoft Outlook e-mail functionality.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a Microsoft Windows operating system environment having a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI);

disposing a MAPI application program within a first computing device;

composing by the user of the document with ~~said~~the application program; and

disposing the document distribution server in a second computing device.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing network bandwidth wastage incident to sending an electronic document to a nonexistent member of a distribution list, comprising:

executing an e-mail application program utilizing a selected one of: Microsoft Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI)-based, and Microsoft Active Messaging;

addressing the electronic document to the distribution list;

expanding the distribution list into its constituent recipients;

recording in a database a document identifier cross-referencing the electronic document with the distribution list;

sending the electronic document with ~~said~~the MAPI application program;

distributing the electronic document to members of the distribution list;

receiving an error message for ~~said~~the distributing to the nonexistent member, ~~said~~the error message comprising the document identifier;

looking up the document identifier of ~~said~~the error message in the database so as to identify the distribution list; and

automatically deleting the nonexistent member from the distribution list.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving the electronic document by a distribution server which performs ~~said~~the distributing the electronic document, receiving the error message, and looking up the identifier.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

determining the identifier based on attributes of the electronic document, ~~said~~the attributes comprising a subject identifier, a sending time, and a distribution list identifier.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system ~~An apparatus~~ for reducing network bandwidth wastage incident to sending an electronic document to a nonexistent member of a distribution list, comprising:

~~a machine accessible medium having instructions encoded thereon capable of directing the machine to perform:~~

a database;

a mail transport agent (MTA) coupled with the database, the MTA to ~~executing~~ execute a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI)-based e-mail application program,~~;~~

expand the distribution list into its constituent recipients,

~~addressing the electronic document to the distribution list;~~

~~recording~~ record in ~~a~~ the database an identifier cross-referencing the electronic document with the distribution list,~~;~~

~~sending the electronic document with said MAPI application program;~~

~~distributing~~ distribute the electronic document to members of the distribution list;

~~receiving~~ receive an error message for ~~said distributing~~distribution to ~~the~~ a nonexistent member, ~~said~~the error message comprising the identifier,~~;~~

~~looking~~ look up the identifier of ~~said~~the error message in the database so as to identify the distribution list,~~;~~ and

~~deleting~~ automatically delete the nonexistent member from the distribution list; and

a mail user agent (MUA) coupled with the MTU via a network, the MUA to address the electronic document to the distribution list, and send the electronic document with the MAPI application program;.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 17, wherein the MTA ~~said instructions including further instructions capable of directing the machines to perform:~~

~~determining~~ determines the identifier based on attributes of the electronic document, ~~said~~the attributes comprising a subject identifier, a sending time, and a distribution list identifier.

20. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the MAPI application program includes an object-oriented programming language.

21. (New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

receive a document by a document distribution server;

expand the distribution list into its constituent recipients;

record in a database a document identifier and the distribution list;

distribute the document to the members of the distribution list;

receive, in response to distributing to a first member of the distribution list, an error message comprising the document identifier;

look up the document identifier in the database so as to identify the distribution list; and

automatically delete the destination address for the first member from the distribution list so that a subsequent sending to the distribution list avoids corresponding subsequent error messages.

22. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the sets of instructions, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to receive distributions addressed to the distribution list so that replies to the distributions are directed to the members of the distribution list.

23. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the sets of instructions, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to:

dispose a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) application program within a first computing device;

compose by the user of the document with the application program; and

dispose the document distribution server in a second computing device.

24. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the MAPI application program includes an object-oriented programming language.

25. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the MAPI application program comprises a Microsoft Outlook e-mail functionality.